

Date: Thursday 16 January 2025 at 4.30 pm

Venue: Conference Room, Dunedin House, Columbia Drive, Thornaby, TS17 6BJ

Cllr Robert Cook (Leader)

Cllr Pauline Beall
Cllr Nigel Cooke
Cllr Lisa Evans
Cllr Clare Besford
Cllr Steve Nelson
Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE

AGENDA

- | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Evacuation Procedure | (Pages 7 - 8) |
| 2 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 3 | Declarations of Interest | |
| 4 | Minutes | |
| | To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 12 December 2024. | (Pages 9 - 16) |
| | <u>Leader of the Council – Cllr Bob Cook</u> | |
| 5 | Minutes of Various Bodies | (Pages 17 - 34) |
| | <u>Regeneration and Housing – Cllr Nigel Cooke</u> | |
| 6 | Regeneration Powering our Future | (Pages 35 - 38) |
| 7 | Levelling Up Fund Preston Park Museum & Grounds Enhancements | (Pages 39 - 42) |
| | <u>Children and Young People – Cllr Lisa Evans</u> | |
| 8 | Additionally Resourced Provision in Mainstream Schools – Outcome of EMS Consultation | (Pages 43 - 48) |
| | <u>Access, Communities and Community Safety – Cllr Norma Stephenson</u> | |
| 9 | Review of the Statement of Principles for Gambling Premises in Stockton-on-Tees | (Pages 49 - 54) |
| | <u>Health, Leisure and Culture – Cllr Steve Nelson</u> | |
| 10 | 2024 Event Summary and 2025 Memorial Lighting Calendar | (Pages 55 - 64) |

Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting

With the exception of any item identified above as containing exempt or confidential information under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A(4), members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and/or have access to the agenda papers.

Persons wishing to obtain any further information on this meeting, including the opportunities available for any member of the public to speak at the meeting; or for details of access to the meeting for disabled people, please

Contact: Democratic Services Officer, Peter Bell on email peter.bell@stockton.gov.uk

KEY - Declarable interests are:-

- Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's)
- Other Registerable Interests (ORI's)
- Non Registerable Interests (NRI's)

Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance



Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land and property	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— (a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners have a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Table 2 – Other Registerable Interest

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

- a) any unpaid directorships
- b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
- c) any body
 - (i) exercising functions of a public nature
 - (ii) directed to charitable purposes or
 - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

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Dunedin House Emergency Evacuation Procedure

In the event of an emergency alarm activation, everyone should immediately leave by the nearest available signed Exit route.

The main evacuation assembly point is the overflow car park, located across the road from Dunedin House.

Once there await further instructions.

- Do not re-enter the building under any circumstances without an “all clear” which should only be given by the Incident Control Officer.
- And please do not leave the area without permission.

Dunedin House Emergency Evacuation Procedure

CABINET

A meeting of Cabinet was held on Thursday 12 December 2024.

Present: Cllr Robert Cook (Leader), Cllr Pauline Beall (Cabinet Member), Cllr Lisa Evans (Cabinet Member), Cllr Clare Besford (Cabinet Member) and Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE (Cabinet Member).

Officers: Garry Cummings, Clare Harper (DCE&F, T&P), Reuben Kench (DoCS,E&C), Chris Renahan, Craig Taylor (IG&D), Majella McCarthy (DoChS), Ged Morton, Julie Butcher, Peter Bell (DoCS), Carolyn Nice (DoA,H&W), Jane Edmends (AH&W).

Also in attendance: Cllr Syliva Walmsley, Cllr Marc Besford, Cllr Lynn Hall.

Apologies: Cllr Nigel Cooke (Cabinet Member) and Cllr Steve Nelson (Cabinet Member).

CAB/68/24 Evacuation Procedure

The Evacuation Procedure was noted.

CAB/69/24 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

CAB/70/24 Minutes

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2024.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 November be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

CAB/71/24 Medium Term Financial Plan Update

Consideration was given to a report that provided an update on the financial position as at 30th September for the current year (2024/25) and presented outline plans for the 2025/26 Budget and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

Members were aware of the financial challenges facing Councils across the country, and the particular challenges faced locally within Stockton-on-Tees. Significant work was underway looking to address the financial pressures faced by the Council through the Powering our Futures Programme alongside additional mitigating actions. Members were aware of the progress made so far on the transformation reviews, with the report to Cabinet in November 2024 outlining the first phase of savings from reviews.

The cost pressures and demand for Council services as noted in the report to Cabinet in September, continued to grow however, resulting in an updated projected

overspend of £6.6m for the financial year 2024/25. If this materialises, it would need to be funded from earmarked reserves or any one-off funding.

The report also included an update on the projected Medium Term Financial Plan. This incorporated some of the expenditure pressures the Council was experiencing, as well as early announcements from the Budget on 30th October 2024. There was still significant uncertainty around funding with more detail on the funding announcements expected to follow in the Local Government Provisional Settlement expected week commencing 16th December. This would however be a one year settlement and therefore the information in respect of future years was indicative and subject to a fundamental review by the Government of Local Government Funding.

The report identified a potential further pressure across the MTFP and highlighted potential options for addressing this. This would be considered in the budget report in February 2025.

Despite the budget challenges, the Council remained ambitious for Stockton-on-Tees and getting a better future for everyone who lives, works and plays here. The Council was confident it could work with partners and communities to put in place new and innovative approaches which would not only save money but also reshape what the Council did for the better and in the best interests of residents. The Council would do this through the Powering Our Future Programme.

In order to address the budget gap the Council needed to act quickly so the first of the transformation reviews delivered through the Powering our Future programme were taking place between now and early 2025.

In the meantime, all staff were being instructed to think carefully before authorising any spending and to consider how the Council could work with partners and communities to ensure the best possible outcomes for residents, despite a reducing budget.

The updated Capital Programme was set out in an appendix to the report and summarised within a table in the report.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The updated financial position for 2024/25 be noted.
2. The revised Capital Programme at Appendix A of the report be noted.
3. The emerging issues for the MTFP be noted.
3. Reasons for the Decision

CAB/72/24 Inclusive Growth Strategy

Consideration was given to a report that provided the revised Inclusive Growth Strategy 2025-2028 as one of the Council's key policy documents as outlined in the Stockton-on Tees Plan 2024-2028 and for consideration by Council in January 2025.

Inclusive Growth referred to broad-based growth that enabled the widest range of people and places to contribute to economic success, and to benefit from it too. Its purpose is to achieve more prosperity alongside greater equity in opportunities and outcomes and enabling as many people as possible to contribute and benefit from growth, essentially promoting economic growth that benefitted the Borough's residents.

The Strategy was centred on ten strategic 'levers'. These were the themes that would govern the Council work on inclusive growth and would ensure that the Council take a comprehensive approach that focused equally on economic growth and inclusivity. The themes were wide-ranging and included developing new economic roles for Stockton-on-Tees and ensuring the Borough becomes a place recognised for good work, fair pay and responsible business ownership.

The ten levers reinforced the ambition of other Council strategies including the Fairer Stockton-on-Tees framework, the overarching 2024-28 Council Plan, and the emerging Powering Our Future Strategy. The Council would also work with the Tees Valley Combined Authority to complement their emphasis on inclusive growth and inequalities contained within the Tees Valley Strategic Economic Plan.

The ten levers were proposed as the focus of Council activity to turn the Vision into reality. These were:

1. Rapidly Growing and Broadening the Stockton Employment & Business Base
2. Rapidly Growing and Broadening the Stockton Skills & Enterprise Base
3. Helping our Businesses to Grow Faster and to Better Innovate
4. Developing New Economic Roles and Functions within Stockton-on-Tees
5. Changing the Image and Investor Perceptions of Stockton-on-Tees
6. Ensuring All Our Target Communities Can Access Economic Opportunity
7. Making Stockton-on-Tees a Recognised Place of Good Work & Fair Pay
8. Making Stockton-on-Tees a Recognised Place of Responsible Business & Local Ownership
9. Ensuring More Wealth is Retained in Stockton-on-Tees and Circulates Locally
10. Putting More Economic Assets and Power into the Hands of our Local Communities

Further detail on each of these levers can be found in the appendix to the report.

The Strategy was developed alongside key stakeholders, including engagement across all Council departments, external stakeholders and the business community. The outcomes this informed the priority actions under each of the ten levers.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the Inclusive Growth Strategy (attached at Appendix 1 of the report) be approved.

CAB/73/24 Strategic Asset Management Plan

Consideration was given to a report on the Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) 2025-2030.

The Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) 2025-2030 sets a strategic direction for the Council managing its land and property portfolio. It marks the transition to a

Corporate Landlord Model, centralising all Council-owned assets' ownership and strategic management.

This approach ensures efficiency, transparency, and alignment with the Council's strategic objectives. The SAMP outlines key aims and actions to maximise the use of land and buildings, drive regeneration and inclusive growth, and support community needs, all while promoting sustainability and value for money.

The Council's land and property portfolio included operational buildings, commercial properties, community facilities, housing, and land assets. Given financial pressures, it was vital to manage these assets effectively to achieve cost savings, generate income, and advance the Council's broader corporate priorities, including regeneration and inclusive growth, sustainability, and community well-being.

The Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) 2025-2030 provided a strategic direction to align asset management with the Council's corporate objectives. The SAMP prioritised financial sustainability, regeneration and inclusive growth, asset efficiency, and meeting the community's diverse needs.

A core feature of the SAMP was the Asset Challenge process, which involved continuous evaluation of asset performance and relevance. This ensured that assets remained fit for purpose, contributed to corporate objectives, deliver value for money and align with service delivery needs. It also identified opportunities for collaboration, partnership, repurposing, redeveloping, maximising income, and reducing operational costs. This process ensured the Council could adapt to changing needs and maximise the value of its assets.

The SAMP introduced a Corporate Landlord Model, centralising the ownership and management of assets under a corporate function. This shift ensured decisions aligned with the Council's strategic objectives, promoted transparency, and maximise efficiency in service delivery. Service departments would become corporate tenants, using assets to deliver their services, while the Corporate Landlord would manage these assets, ensuring compliance with legal and operational standards.

The SAMP comprised three interconnecting components:

- Policy: Establishes the overarching direction for managing Council assets to meet corporate objectives and priorities.
- Strategy: Outlines the key aims for our assets, including a corporate approach, regeneration and inclusive growth, value for money, optimisation, community support and partnership, and sustainability.
- Action Plan: Provides a live document detailing specific actions, performance measures, and timelines for achieving the strategy objectives.

Under the SAMP, the Council's asset management approach was structured around six key aims:

a. Corporate Landlord Model:

Under a Corporate Landlord model, ownership of all assets and responsibility for their management is centralised, shifting ownership from individual service departments to a Corporate Landlord function for consistency and improved financial efficiency. The service departments become corporate tenants and use assets for service delivery.

b. Regeneration and Inclusive Growth:

The Council will utilise its land and buildings to stimulate regeneration, attract investment, and promote inclusive growth. This includes prioritising assets to support business growth, revitalising town centres, and creating new opportunities for residents and businesses.

c. Supporting Communities and Partners:

This will highlight the role of Council assets in empowering local communities. It promotes using assets to strengthen partnerships with local organisations, support well-being, and foster social cohesion. The plan ensures that properties like community centres and public spaces deliver tangible social benefits by aligning asset management with community needs.

d. Optimisation of Assets:

The Council will ensure its assets are fully utilised, fit for purpose, and aligned with strategic goals through systematic review and challenge processes. This includes reducing operational costs, identifying opportunities for consolidation, and repurposing underutilised properties.

e. Value for Money and Financial Efficiency:

We will ensure that the Council's assets deliver optimal value for money. This includes continuously challenging occupation and utilisation, maximising financial returns, reducing operational costs, and ensuring assets are fit for purpose. The plan outlines a process of regularly challenging asset performance and utilisation, seeking opportunities for consolidation, income generation, and cost savings.

f. Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship:

The SAMP supports the Council's sustainability goals by ensuring environmentally responsible asset management. It sets out a strategy to reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency, and promote sustainable practices across the estate.

Alongside the SAMP, the Council would develop specific targeted asset management strategies to address distinct needs and opportunities, ensuring they contributed effectively to the Council's corporate objectives. This approach would allow for more focused management and asset optimisation while ensuring alignment with the overall vision outlined in the SAMP.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The live Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) 2025-2030 (Appendix 1 of the report) be approved.
2. The implementation of the Corporate Landlord Model to centralise asset ownership and streamline management processes be endorsed.
3. The planned review of assets to ensure their optimal use in alignment with strategic goals and community needs be noted.

CAB/74/24 Procurement Plan - General Network Refresh

Consideration was given to a report that sought approval for the award of planned higher value contracts where the value exceeds the limit on officer delegated authority

and which were either funded within the approved MTFP / Capital Programme or were subject to a bid for external funding.

The constitution defined a range of decisions that required a specific Cabinet approval, the financial threshold for which was set at a level of £500k or more. Annex 1 of the report listed contracts that exceeded the financial threshold and had not otherwise been delegated to officers.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The contracts listed in Annex 1 be approved.
2. Authority be given to the relevant Director or Assistant Director to make the specific contract award decision and any subsequent contract variation, annual inflationary uplifts (where allowed in the contract terms and conditions) and extension decision in accordance with the delegations listed in Annex 1.

CAB/75/24 Procurement Plan - Finance ERP System

Consideration was given to a report that sought approval for the award of planned higher value contracts where the value exceeds the limit on officer delegated authority and which were either funded within the approved MTFP / Capital Programme or were subject to a bid for external funding.

The constitution defined a range of decisions that required a specific Cabinet approval, the financial threshold for which was set at a level of £500k or more. Annex 1 of the report listed contracts that exceeded the financial threshold and had not otherwise been delegated to officers. This contract was included on the Annual Procurement Plan approved by Cabinet in March 2024, however due the circumstance set out below, the contract required additional approval.

The constitution included Contract Procedure Rules which lay down the processes for procurement including the requirement to competitively tender for goods / services and works or alternatively access pre-tendered framework agreements. The framework agreement available for this contract referenced on the Annual Procurement Plan did not provide value for money and there was insufficient time to undertake a full tender before the current system becomes 'unsupported' by end of 2024. Therefore, officers had entered into a negotiated procedure without a call for competition directly with Unit 4 and achieved a substantially reduced pricing framework.

To comply with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and for transparency purposes, the Council was required to publish a Voluntary Ex-Ante Transparency Notice (VEAT) which provided the opportunity for the wider market to challenge the proposed decision to award a contract directly to Unit 4. For information, the challenge period was limited to 10 calendar days from the day after the notice is published. The contract could not be concluded until after this period.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The expenditure on the contract listed in Annex 1 be approved.

2. An exception to Contract Procedure Rules to not access a pre-existing framework agreement for the purchase of the contract listed in Annex 1 and instead directly award a contract to Unit 4 through a negotiated procedure without a call for competition.

3. Authority be given to the relevant Director or Assistant Director to finalise detailed terms and conditions and any subsequent contract variation, annual inflationary uplifts (where allowed in the contract terms and conditions) and extension decision in accordance with the delegations listed in Annex 1 of the report.

CAB/76/24 The Sycamores Housing Development (closure report)

Consideration was given to a report on the Sycamores Housing Development (Closure Report).

Housing is a key contributor to the health & well-being and quality of life for the Borough's residents and a key driver in supporting the Boroughs economic growth.

As part of the Councils strategic regeneration plans it was a longstanding ambition to bring forward a housing development on the former Victoria Estate and adjacent Elm House sites, to provide quality, truly affordable and inclusive homes within the heart of Stockton town centre.

As all homes on The Sycamores had been built, sold and occupied the report detailed the successful delivery of this town centre re-development. Highlighting that the new homes delivered not only addressed local housing needs but also delivered broader social and economic benefits as well as a financial return to the authority.

Looking forward as the Council explores options for accelerating affordable housing delivery the learning and reflections from this partnership (and delivery model) will be considered. They included:

- An effective governance structure (monthly project meetings, with an 'open book approach ensured effective project & financial monitoring and formal Board meetings which provided an escalation route if required).
- The ability of the partnership to operate with an element of flexibility and agility to maximise funding opportunities as these arose (on this occasion securing access to the Brownfield Housing Fund and First Homes monies).
- Securing the right level of expertise (skills and financial) to deliver on the Councils ambitions.
- The benefits (and need) of an effective internal inter-department project team (legal, financial, planning, land and property and housing colleagues for example) who provided dedicated support to the project at all stages (procurement, establishing the legal arrangements and throughout project delivery). Which in turn facilitated effect partnership arrangements with Keepmoat.

CAB/77/24 Learning & Skills Service Governing Body Annual Report

Consideration was given to the Annual Report of the Governing Body for the Learning and Skills Services.

The report provided an update on the work of the Learning and Skills Service in supporting residents, employers and the local community with learning opportunities during the 23/24 academic year. The report also demonstrated the ongoing success of the Governing Body as an advisory committee empowered by Cabinet to provide challenge, support and strategic oversight.

The Annual Report covered the following key areas:-

- Governance and management of the Service
- Overview of the Learning and Skills Service
- Performance of the Learning and Skills Service
- Multiply Programme

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

16 JANUARY 2024

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

CABINET DECISION

Leader of the Council – Councillor Bob Cook

MINUTES OF VARIOUS BODIES

SUMMARY

The attached minutes are for consideration by Cabinet.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/DECISIONS

To enable Cabinet to view the minutes of various bodies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the minutes of the meetings detailed in the appendices be received.

DETAIL

1. In accordance with the Council's Constitution or previous practice the minutes of the meeting of the bodies indicated below are submitted to members for consideration:-

Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board – 11 September 2024
Safer Stockton Partnership – 2 October 2024

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

2. This report is not the subject of any Community Impact Implications.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

3. This report is not the subject of any Corporate Parenting Implications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4. Where applicable, as specified in the minutes.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5. Where applicable, as specified in the minutes.

RISK ASSESSMENT

6. This report is categorised as low to medium risk.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

7. Not applicable.

Name of Contact Officer: Jonathan Nertney

Post Title: Head of Democratic Services

Email Address: jonathan.nertney@stockton.gov.uk



Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board

Meeting Date: **Wednesday 11th September 2024**

Time: **9.30am – 12.00pm**

Venue: **Microsoft Teams**

Minutes

Attendees		
Name	Role	Representing
Janet Alderton	Assistant Director of Nursing & Patient Safety	North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
Cllr Gary Allen	Lead Member	Hartlepool Borough Council
Cllr Pauline Beall	Lead Member	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Jane Bell	Administration Officer	TSAB Business Unit
Sarah Bowman-Abouna	Director of Public Health	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Lee Brown	Area Manager	Cleveland Fire Brigade
Lindsay Britton-Robertson	Assistant Director of Safeguarding	South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Elaine Godwin	Admin Officer	TSAB Business Unit
Adrian Green	Independent Chair	Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board
Jill Harrison	Director of Adult and Community Based Services	Hartlepool Borough Council
Neil Harrison	Head of Safeguarding & Specialist Services	Hartlepool Borough Council
Gina Hurwood	SAR Co-Ordinator	TSAB Business Unit
Dean Johansen-Berg	Engagement & Events Officer	Healthwatch South Tees
Alyson Longstaff	Advanced Customer Support Senior Leader	Durham Tees Valley Department for Work and Pensions
Amy Mahoney	Business Manager	TSAB Business Unit
Sam Midgley	Project Officer	TSAB Business Unit
Carolyn Nice	Director of Adults and Health	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Cara Nimmo	Assistant Director for Adult Care Operations	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Lucy Owens****	Chief Executive	Catalyst Stockton
Chris Piercy	Director of Nursing	North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board
Eleanor Piesold (Shadowing)	Specialty Registrar in Public Health	Stockton on Tees Borough Council
John Rafferty	Compliance Business Partner - Safeguarding	Thirteen Group
Carol Sansum	Admin Officer	TSAB Business Unit
Erik Scollay	Director of Adult Social Care	Middlesbrough Borough Council
Nikki Smith	Associate Director of Safeguarding	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
Angela Storm	Data Analysis and Performance Monitoring Officer	TSAB Business Unit
Helen Wilson	Superintendent	Cleveland Police
Kellie Woodley	North East Director	People First

Name	Role	Representing
Richard Baker	Assistant Chief Constable	Cleveland Police
Angela Connor	Assistant Director Adult Social Care/PSW	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Paula Dewell	Detective Superintendent – Head of Safeguarding	Cleveland Police
Mayor Chris Cooke	Lead Member	Middlesbrough Borough Council
Mike Fleet	Principal Lecturer (Programmes) Department of Nursing & Midwifery	Teesside University
Rachelle Kipling	Temporary Assistant Chief Executive	Office of Police & Crime Commissioner
John Lovatt	Assistant Director	Hartlepool Borough Council
Kay Nicolson	CEO	A Way Out
Julian Penton****	Development Officer	Hartlepower
Patrick Rice	Corporate Director of Adults and Communities	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Stephen Thomas	Development Officer	Healthwatch Hartlepool
Beverley Murphy	Chief Nurse	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust

Absent		
Name	Role	Representing
Sarah Aspinall	Inspector	CQC (Middlesbrough, Stockton-on-Tees and Redcar & Cleveland)
Cllr Lisa Belshaw	Lead Member	Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
Kati Cowley	Safer Custody and Equalities Hub Manager	HMP Holme House Prison
Mark Davis***	Chief Executive	Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency
Elsbeth Devaney	Group Director of Nursing & Quality	TEWV
Natasha Douglas	Healthwatch Manager	Healthwatch Stockton
Dr Hilary Lloyd	Chief Nurse	South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Michelle Monty	Inspector	CQC Hartlepool
Peter Neal	CEO	Redcar and Cleveland Voluntary Development Agency
Ann Powell	Head of Stockton & Hartlepool PDU	National Probation Service
Elise Pout	Temporary Assistant Chief Executive	Office of Police & Crime Commissioner
Iain Richardson	Head of Safer Prisons & Equality	HMP Holme House Prison
Leanne Stockton	Business Manager	Hartlepool & Stockton Safeguarding Children Partnership
Katie Tucker	Inspector	CQC Hartlepool
Gary Watson	Business Manager	South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership

*Attends for specific agenda items only, ** Attends 2 times per year; ***Attends on behalf of MVDA, RCVA & Healthwatch South Tees, **** Attendance will be shared between Catalyst and Hartlepower

Copies: Chris Brown; Rebecca Duce; Caroline Gallilee; Emily Gibson; Suzanne Glass; Lorna Harrison; Nigel Hart; Kay Mcgowan; Suzanne Metcalfe; Judith Oliver; Laura Poppleton; Angela Pringle, Mike Sharman; Karen Sproston; Rachael Surtees; Lyndsay Waddington

Agenda Item 1	Introductions and Apologies	Presenter: Chair
Independent Chair Adrian Green (AG) welcomed members to the meeting. A number of apologies have been received and will be noted in the minutes. Although not in attendance at this meeting Iain Richardson was welcomed as the new representative for Holme House Prison.		
Actions from the meeting that took place on 12 th June were reviewed:		

- Feedback to regional ADASS Group in relation to s.117 – Completed
- Copy of the Safe Lives recommendations to be forwarded to the Business Unit – Not yet received. Reminder to be sent to Helen Wilson
- Details of the July ASE Task and Finish group meeting to be forwarded to ES - Complete
- Details to be provided to Nikki Smith (NS) if TEWV were invited to attend the HBC audit – Complete
- Learning from SBC peer review to be shared with members – Carolyn Nice (CN) advised that the report is going to Cabinet on 9th October. Once it is in the public domain a copy will be shared with Board members.
- Findings from TEWV inspection of crisis, liaison and diversion teams to be shared with Board – NS advised that the report is not yet available

The minutes were agreed as true and accurate.

Action Points	Action Owner	Deadline
1. Reminder to Helen Wilson regarding Safe Lives recommendations	BU	30/09/2024

Agenda Item 2	End of Year 2023/24 Performance Data	Presenter: Angela Storm
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Angela Storm (AS) reminded members that the switch to reporting using the PowerBi format was made in Quarter 3, so is still in the early stages. Following the meeting, the link to access the PowerBi dashboard will be shared again to ensure that any new Board members are included. AS advised that the link does not change for each report and can be used to access the PowerBi reporting system at any time. Going forward this will enable Board members to view the data prior to the meeting.

AS provided a summary of the data.

The data has been linked to the Board's four key priorities:

- Joint Working – Includes details of the Multi-Agency Audits that have taken place and data in relation to Outcomes. The number of cases referred to the High Risk Adults Panel (HRAP) was added during the reporting year. Data for HRAP is provided by 3 of the Local Authorities (LA), so does not provide a full picture for Tees. Data is still being considered so it is anticipated that the figure will increase from the previous year, highlighting the number of complex cases being reported to Adult Safeguarding.
- People – Figures are included for training. The increase in virtual training is positive with a high completion rate. Three Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) referrals were made during the period.
- Communication – The number of individuals subject to Safeguarding Enquiries asked about their desired outcomes remains high. Data shows that the Board continues to expand its reach via social media and the number of visitors to the TSAB website.
- Services – 11 Non-Statutory Partners have completed the Quality Assurance Framework (QAF), with all achieving amber or green ratings. AS thanked all those who have taken part in the process. The number of Providers subject to the Responding to and Addressing Serious Concerns (RASC) protocol has seen a slight increase compared to the previous year.

Performance Indicators – All four indicators have been achieved, demonstrating the amount of positive work that has taken place across Tees. Two indicators within Hartlepool Borough Council (HBC) are rated amber. This has been discussed with HBC and at the Performance, Audit and Quality (PAQ) Sub-Group. The data is a true reflection of activity within HBC over the past year where figures have been impacted by one service provider who is not commissioned by HBC but accepts out of area placements.

Concerns & Section 42 Enquiries – There has been an increase in Concerns from the previous year, which is reflective of the national data. The top 5 categories of abuse are the same as the previous year along with the gender split, location of abuse and source of risk. Primary Care data in relation to Concerns raised by GP's is now being captured within the PowerBi System and is a positive step to reflect the work that has been done to raise safeguarding awareness within this sector. AS highlighted that the figure for the 'Other' category is high. This was discussed at the PAQ Sub-Group meeting and further work will be done to review the pick list that is used for reporting. Not all 4 LAs report against the same areas, which

is resulting in some being recorded against 'Other'. It is hoped that by expanding the pick list this figure can be reduced.

Alyson Longstaff (AL) queried if any data is captured in relation to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), as they have carried out a number of awareness raising sessions with staff around raising concerns and professional curiosity. AS confirmed this is not something that is currently captured at this level, but the lists used at LA level are more extensive so this may be something that the individual LAs could provide. AS added that this could be included as an option when the pick list is reviewed and the work that has been done to raise awareness could explain some of the increase seen in the 'Other' category.

Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council (RCBC) noted that there is little variation in the data from one year to the next. The only noticeable change for RCBC has been an increase in financial abuse which could be attributed to raised awareness or the cost of living crisis. The financial abuse figure for the whole of Tees has reduced, although discussion did take place at the PAQ Sub-Group meeting as SBC did see an increase in Quarter 4. The discussion focused on Scams and Cuckooing, which prompted debate on how the Financial and Material category is recorded across Tees. This will be explored further to ensure that all LAs are recording Cuckooing under the same category. AS responded that the Decision Support Guidance provides guidance on categorising types of abuse within this structure. AM will raise Financial Abuse at the National Network to see how this is being categorised nationally

AS added that she is working to incorporate the 2022-23 data into the PowerBi system which will then enable a comparison to the previous year and allow for trends to be monitored. A lengthy discussion took place at the PAQ Sub-Group meeting around ways in which new technology allows data to be used in different ways to inform Strategic views, which may be something for future consideration by the Board. If the use of data is to be developed further, decisions will need to be made on whether recording needs to be the same across the whole of Tees.

Neil Harrison provided an example of how data has been used recently in HBC to support a request to the directorate for resources to fund work in relation to Self-Neglect, which had been identified as an increasing category of abuse in the LA area. When compared to other SABs nationally, Tees are in a strong position in relation to data. Erik Scollay (ES) added that whilst there is a requirement to record in line with the statutory definitions LAs should also consider a broader set of categories, such as the work that SBC have done in relation to Domestic Abuse, to feed into the mapping work and help inform the prevention agenda. Lindsay Britton-Robertson (LBR) advised that South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's (STHFT) electronic recording system will mirror the definitions of abuse used within the Care Act. Work will be done by the PAQ Sub-Group to look at breaking down the Domestic Abuse category further.

Enquiries - Neglect and Acts of Omission is the main category of abuse, similar to the national picture. The conversion rate from Concern to S42 Enquiry is slightly lower than the previous year, but this does vary across each LA. Own Home remains the main location of abuse but has reduced slightly percentage wise over the year as more Care Home activity has been reported.

An End of Year Comparison has been included. The main area highlighted by this is Care Homes impacting on the figure for the source of risk.

A new mapping function has now been added to display the data by area. To ensure anonymity, areas with less than 5 have been excluded from the figures. The mapping function will be a useful tool to aid prevention work and targeted campaigns. Nikki Smith queried why no data has been included for the East Cleveland area. This may be down to figures being less than 5 or the postcode formats used. AS will check this with the RCBC Performance Lead.

Outcomes – The majority of the data included is linked to the PIs and is similar to figures for the previous year. The main change is under Source of Risk where Service Provider now accounts for a higher percentage.

Multi Agency Data - work is ongoing with partner organisations to enable their data to be included within the system.

Final checks are being carried out on the data in preparation for the Annual Report. Once this has taken place the link to access the PowerBi dashboard will be shared with members. The link will enable members to view the data in advance of future Board meetings so that any queries can be discussed.

AG thanked ES, the PAQ Sub-Group and AS for their work in getting to this stage, noting the value of the discussion points raised as a result, and added that it will be useful to have comparative and trend analysis. Once this is achieved the system will help to direct the discussion points on the agenda.

Action Points	Action Owner	Deadline
1. Link to PowerBi Data Dashboard to be shared with members	AS	25/09/2024
2. Categorisation of Financial Abuse to be raised at the National Network	AM	09/10/2024
3. Mapping Figures for East Cleveland to be checked	AS	09/10/2024

Agenda Item 3	TSAB Annual Report 2023-24 – First Draft	Presenter: Sam Midgley
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A copy of the TSAB Annual Report 2023-24 was shared with the agenda, and a revised version circulated to members prior to the meeting. Sam Midgley (SM) highlighted the key points and changes from the previous year:

The report provides an overview of the work of the Board between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024. Similar to the previous year, to support with the report being clear and understandable to read, a glossary is included at the end of the report. The report follows a similar format to the previous year, but extra caution is being taken this year to ensure that the document meets accessibility requirements.

- Page 3 features a new introduction from AG and includes a tribute to the previous Independent Chair, Darren Best.
- Pages 4-5 follow a similar format to previous years outlining Board members and the structure of the Board, Sub-Groups and any Task and Finish groups.
- Page 6 of the report includes some of the key achievements from the last year. This highlights key awareness raising activity and campaigns led by the CE Sub-Group such as A Spotlight on Modern Slavery and Sexual Exploitation and National Safeguarding Adults Week, SAR activity including published SARs and completed action plans, introduction of new training, Multi-Agency audit themes and other key activities such as the implementation of Power Bi.
- The data is presented on pages 7 and 8 of the report. The data is still to be finalised prior to the final draft ready for the October Board meeting.
- Similar to previous years, CE has a dedicated page to highlight the significant amount of work that takes place in this workstream. There has been an increase in Facebook followers during this year and an increase in the number of safeguarding champions, which supports with sharing key safeguarding messages. A number of successful campaigns took place with 380 professionals attending the event on Modern Slavery and Sexual Exploitation. The campaigns are successful in increasing TSAB’s reach which is reflected in the number of people who sign up to become Champions or to receive newsletters following the campaigns.
- There are some new additions in the report this year, including a section on “Involving Lived Experience” to demonstrate the increasing efforts to include those with lived experience and members of the public in the work of the Board. This includes lived experience presentations at events and work that has been completed with independent advocacy group, Independent Voices. This group includes individuals with learning disabilities who support the Board with spreading safeguarding messages across their communities. They also delivered a presentation at the Safeguarding Champions event to showcase their work with TSAB and their dedication to raising awareness of safeguarding and the Safe Place Scheme.
- A new page on “You said, we did...” also features in this year’s report to clearly demonstrate how the voice of service users, the general public and professionals who complete the annual survey has helped to inform the work of the Board. Including the Spotlight on Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence

campaign which was influenced from the annual survey which highlighted that professionals felt less informed about this type of abuse.

- Training also has a dedicated page, again to highlight the high level of work that takes place in this area. This includes any new additions to the training programme such as the Trauma Informed Practice Webinar and includes a quote from a delegate who attended this course, highlighting some positive changes to their practice and therefore some positive changes for the individual they were supporting.
- The report then outlines the Board Priorities as set out in the Strategic Plan, and follows a “what we said we would do and what we did” format to reflect the volume of work that has taken place by partners during this year to meet the aims and objectives within the plan:
 - Priority 1: Joint working – Team Around The Individual (TATI) was reviewed and the new and rebranded High Risk Adults Panel (HRAP) was launched. A new Joint Protocol outlining working arrangements with the Children’s Partnerships was developed and the Adult Sexual Exploitation toolkit was published.
 - Priority 2: People - Highlights how the multi-agency training programme has continued to evolve to incorporate learning from SARs and includes good news stories relating to HBC’s work with Hartlepool Deaf Centre and Thirteen Housing winning a national SAB excellence award.
 - Priority 3: Communication - highlights the annual consultation survey, which was completed by a total of 530 people, a new easy read poster developed with Independent Voices on safeguarding and wellbeing for National Safeguarding Adults Week (NSAW) and a Learning from SARs session which was attended by 40 GP’s.
 - Priority 4: Services - includes the Mutli-agency Audits that took place during the year, the implementation of Power Bi to produce high quality performance reports and a number of events the Board participated in, hosted by the voluntary sector.
- There are dedicated pages to reflect the work carried out in relation to SAR’s. In 2023/24 3 SAR notifications were considered, 2 progressed to a SAR and 1 was deferred pending the LeDeR process. 4 SARs were published: Adult K, James, SK and Bernadette. The report includes a summary of these cases with a link to the website for the full reports to be accessed. The SAR pages also include some of the Sub-Group’s achievements, including monitoring of 11 open cases, completion of two action plans and considering the learning from regional and national SARs. TSAB are also part of the North East SAR Champions Network and a number of actions took place during the year including a regional webinar on diabetes and the links to SARs. TSAB also reviewed the NE SAR Champions Self-Neglect guides to incorporate learning from the Adult K, James, SK, JJ and Bernadette SARs.
- Partner contributions are included from pages 19 – 22 highlighting an overview of what partners have done to implement the Boards Strategic Plan. Partner quotes also feature throughout the report to highlight positive news stories. Any members that have not yet provided a contribution but would like to do so can email them to the Business Unit no later than close of play on 18th September.
- The Board Priorities for 2024-25 are included on page 23, this includes the top three priorities as identified from the annual survey.
- An appendix will be included which provides an overview of DoLS applications, Concerns and S42 Enquiries broken down into each LA area.

SM requested that any comments or feedback are sent to the Business Unit by Friday 20th September to allow time for amendments to be made and the final report to be circulated with the agenda ahead of the next meeting on 9th October.

AG thanked SM for the work that has gone into producing the report which demonstrates the good work that has taken place over the year.

Action Points	Action Owner	Deadline
1. Partner Contributions for the Annual Report to be emailed to the Business Unit before close of play on 18 th September	All	18/09/2024
2. Comments and feedback on the Annual Report to be sent to the Business Unit by Friday 20 th September	All	20/09/2024

Agenda Item 4	Sub-Group and Task & Finish Group Update	Presenter: Sub-Group Chairs
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Communication & Engagement Sub-Group – Neil Harrison

The Communication and Engagement (CE) Sub-Group last met on Monday 8th July.

Recent and upcoming campaign activity was discussed, including the evaluation of the Spotlight Campaign on Carers Week and World Elder Abuse Day. A copy of the evaluation was circulated with the agenda and highlights some of the key outcomes of the campaign:

- A social media campaign with a reach of 3500 on Facebook and 1328 on X
- The TSAB website had a 17% increase in views as well as a 27.7% increase in views on the Report Abuse webpage and 283 views on the refreshed carers webpage
- Two posters that were developed following engagement with Carers were launched during the week
- TSAB co-ordinated 2 workshops: Identifying and Supporting Carers and Spotting and Stopping Abuse of Older Adults. 132 professionals attended across both events
- 12 professionals signed up to become Safeguarding Champions
- The TSAB newsletter was emailed to 2057 professionals
- The Hidden Harms animation was launched and viewed 148 times during the week

A Task and Finish Group has commenced to begin planning for National Safeguarding Adults Week which is taking place between 18th and 22nd November. The theme for this year is “Working in Partnership” and a number of workshops have already been scheduled to take place during the week.

On 11th June TSAB, alongside the Children’s Partnerships, facilitated an event hosted by the Centre of Expertise of Child Sexual Abuse at which forty spaces were allocated to Adult Services. The event featured a lived experience speaker and workshops were held throughout the day. The event was a success and highlighted the importance of both children’s and adult services working together in relation to Child Sexual Abuse.

The CE Strategy has been reviewed. A copy of the reviewed strategy was circulated with the agenda for approval. The version attached to the agenda included a date error on page two, this has been amended to 2022-2025. Amendments to the Strategy include references to Twitter replaced with “X” and an update on page 4 in relation to involving lived experience and linking to the Ladder of Co-production which shows the different levels of engagement before true co-production is reached.

The Annual Consultation Survey has undergone a thorough review involving CE members and feedback from Stockton Lived Experience Forum. The new survey will be launched in October.

The Business Unit have been working with Signapse, a company who use AI to create sign language translation. They have translated TSAB’s general Safeguarding Explained video and TSAB’s Modern Slavery video to include British Sign Language which will be launched during NSAW.

The Business Unit are working with Independent Voices and members of Larchfield Community to support the creation of a new Safe Place Scheme video. This will also be launched during NSAW.

Members approved the CE Strategy.

Learning Training & Development Sub-Group – Amy Mahoney on behalf of Patrick Rice

The Sub-Group are due to meet on 24th September. An update will be provided to the October Board meeting.

The Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Workbooks have been reviewed and refreshed with support from specialist services. Copies of both Workbooks were circulated with the agenda for approval. AG noted that the FGM Workbook makes reference to ‘permanent resident status’, and that ‘settled status’ may be the preferred terminology following changes due to the UK leaving the European Union. Carolyn Nice (CN) suggested that AM could check this with SBC’s Legal team. Pending this check the Workbooks were approved by members.

Operational Leads Sub-Group – Amy Mahoney

The Sub-Group last met on 18th July. The meeting had a full agenda which included a presentation by the Cleveland Multi-Agency Fraud Forum, a Trading Standings initiative covering investigation, prevention and victim support. The presentation prompted discussion amongst members in relation to Financial Abuse and Fraud and a number of actions were taken forward including ensuring representation of adult safeguarding at the Forum.

An update was provided on HRAP and the Inter-agency Policy and Procedures were reviewed by members. Discussion took place in relation to the Interactive Procedures which can no longer be hosted online due to accessibility standards. The findings from the SBC Multi Agency audit were presented and a themed discussion took place. The community of practice approach to Mental Capacity resources was discussed and a report shared following a recommendation from the James SAR to ensure that learning was shared across Tees on the complex nature of Mental Capacity. The report included recommendations from a number of SARs that feature Mental Capacity and considered the most effective ways to take this work forward. A further update will be provided at the November Sub-Group meeting.

The availability of the Modern Slavery First Responder Training commissioned by TSAB was discussed along with ideas of how to best promote this amongst colleagues. The Self-Neglect Guidance and Policy have been reviewed, taking into account learning and recommendations from local, regional and national SARs, and now include a new flowchart to capture the learning from the Adult K SAR. A copy was circulated with the agenda for comment and approval. AM requested that any comments are forwarded to the Business Unit by Friday 20th September. If no comments are received by this date, then the documents will be deemed as approved. If any significant amendments are required, they will be brought back to the October Board meeting for approval. The work was completed by a small Task and Finish Group and AM thanked members for their input to this significant piece of work.

Multi-Agency Audit – Transitions

Calum Titley (CT) joined the meeting to present the findings from SBC's multi agency audit on Transitions. A copy of the report was circulated with the agenda.

It was agreed that the focus for the audit would be an active care leaver, which did involve a manual process to identify suitable cases. Due to the discussion that took place the group only had time to review one of the cases selected. Due to the length of time that the individual has been open to safeguarding it was agreed to focus on a selected time period.

Findings showed strong evidence of Multi Agency working, including Police involvement, and good evidence of the individual being signposted to crisis services. Whilst there was no evidence of Professional Challenge the allocated worker was professionally curious in relation to her persistent engagement with the individual via varying communication methods.

Areas that were done well included recording of decision rationale, feedback provided to the referrer, information sharing with a neighbouring LA, persistence from workers to engage with the individual and strong multi-agency working. Areas for improvement were identified in relation to the Concern Form only being part completed. Feedback on this has been provided to the agency involved. Protection plans are being clearly recorded when cases close, but interim protection and safety plans need to be implemented throughout when cases are open for longer periods of time. The case summary section on the electronic care management system will be utilised by the Adult Safeguarding Team for the purpose of this. In relation to management supervision although there was evidence of this it was acknowledged as part of the audit that there were occasions where the case was discussed within the office where management advice and guidance was given but that it was not always reflected in case notes entries. We will be looking to devise a system where cases can be discussed daily with management but also recorded on the electronic care record.

CT advised that the Powering Our Futures Programme within SBC includes Transitions and as a result will be included in discussion at a strategic level. At operational level CT attended the Leaving Care Meeting, with the aim of improving discussion and links with the Leaving Care Team. The Adult

Safeguarding Team have initiated an informal daily discussion session for non-urgent advice and reflection, providing a good opportunity to clearly document advice given on cases.

Gina Hurwood advised that the next topic for consideration for the learning from regional and national SARs report is Transitions. A number of key themes and areas for learning are emerging. Once completed the report will be shared with the SAR and OL Sub-Groups and will help to inform the Spotlight On campaign around Transitions which is taking place later in the year.

Performance, Audit and Quality Sub-Group – Angela Storm on behalf of Erik Scollay

The Sub-Group met on Monday 9th September. The group discussed the Q4 and end of year data. Discussion also took place around technology and the use of AI and the consistency of reporting across the four LAs.

Policy, Procedure and Practice Task & Finish Group – Amy Mahoney

Copies of the updated Inter-Agency Policy and Procedures were attached to the agenda for approval. Changes have been made to the scope, legal framework and membership. References to TATI have been replaced with HRAP, the Joint Working Protocol with Childrens is now included and the terminology 'no further action' has been replaced by 'safeguarding processes not required'.

The documents were approved by members.

AM advised that the Task & Finish Group has now been stood down following completion of the document review work.

Safeguarding Adults Review Sub-Group – Jill Harrison

The Sub-Group are currently managing 10 cases at various stages. The Susan SAR is almost complete and is due to be presented to Board at the October meeting. As well as Tees cases the Sub-Group are working with neighbouring SABs on a number of a cases with cross-boundary issues. As part of their commitment to look at learning from regional and national SARs the second National SAR analysis briefings for senior leaders, SAB members and elected members was considered and the links for these were included on the agenda. The briefing considers 229 SARs, focusing on good practice, shortcomings and areas for learning. Common areas of good practice include good risk management and the application of Making Safeguarding Personal principles. Most common shortcomings were in relation to poor risk assessment, MCA assessments and lack of recognition of abuse and neglect linking to an emerging theme from a number of SARs around Professional Curiosity. The report recognised the need for increased awareness of some forms of abuse, all of which have been considered through various SARs in Tees. A number of priorities are included for sector led improvements including changes to national law and policy and improving reporting and sharing of learning. A number of briefing sessions have taken place regionally which were well attended.

The Jack and JJ SARs were presented to Board at the June meeting. The Action Plans for both SARs were circulated with the agenda for approval. Both documents were approved by members and will now be monitored by the Sub-Group going forward.

AL queried if the DWP should be involved with the HRAP panels. AM will provide contact details for the Chairs across Tees.

Action Points	Action Owner	Deadline
1. Terminology used in reference to status to be check with SBC legal team	AM	09/10/2024
2. Comments on the Self-Neglect Guidance and Policy to be forwarded to the Business Unit by Friday 20 th September	All	20/09/2024
3. Contact details for HRAP Chairs to be provided to Alyson Longstaff	AM	09/10/2024

Agenda Item 5	Quality Assurance Framework Reports
South Tees Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (STHFT) - Lindsay Britton-Robertson (LBR)	

LBR noted that STHFT have a strong workforce in place and have improved communications between the Adults and Children’s teams. Better interaction between the two teams has been helpful in addressing any cross-cutting themes. Supervision pathways are strong and there is good compliance with Adult Safeguarding supervision. Training is in the process of being updated in line with the new Inter-Collegiate Document. A new policy has been introduced to manage staff allegations in order to facilitate quick decision making and support for the staff member. A conference on Child and Adult Exploitation took place earlier in the year and was well attended. Discharge remains the biggest area of Concerns and S42 Enquiries but significant work has been done to improve the discharge pathways and checklists to ensure that communication to onward destinations is effective. Work around awareness raising in relation to Domestic Abuse is ongoing.

In response to the recommendations, the Serious Incident and Never Event Reporting Policy and Induction Policy are under review by the patient safety team. The TSAB telephone number has been removed from the Safeguarding contact information on the website, a Mental Health Strategy Policy has been published and a steering group meeting put in place. Trauma Informed Practice is being cascaded across the organisation and more training is being devoted to DoLS. Once group arrangements with North Tees are in place, Emergency Contingency Procedures relevant to both organisations will be developed. The Could Not Attend Policy was ratified in July.

Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) – Nicki Smith

NS thanked the Business Unit for the quality of the tool used to complete the submission and for the quality of the feedback provided, noting that the process is a worthwhile piece of work to provide internal assurance. The TSAB self-assessment tool is being used by TEWV as a pro-forma when taking part in other SAB quality assurance processes.

Findings noted that robust structures were in place and that policies and procedures were reviewed periodically and form part of the governance procedure within the organisation. A considerable amount of work has taken place to ensure that Safeguarding is embedded in internal structures and making sure that learning from reviews and other sources feeds into this. When actions are identified within reviews the process looks internally to see what is already in place and then feeds back into the action plan. Due to the size of the Trust work on this is on-going and will take time to embed.

Good practice was identified in relation to Safeguarding Training and co-creation work to hear the voice of families and carers. In response to a number of reviews TEWV conducted a focused piece of work to host a Self-neglect awareness week.

Recommendations come from the trust Safeguarding Workplan and have either been identified through the QAF process or carried forward from reviews conducted in the previous year. Recommendations were made around Parent/Carer Mental Health and the impact on children, quality of referrals, the supervision policy which is now in the process of being reviewed to make it mandatory for all staff who carry caseloads, staff training with a MAPPA identified as a priority for this year and reporting. A new electronic reporting system was implemented in February. Some issues have been encountered and TEWV are working to resolve these but are not yet in a position to understand what data will be available in relation to Safeguarding.

AS thanked both organisations for the work that had gone into completing their submissions.

Agenda Item 6	National SAB Managers Network Awards Nominations	Presenter: Chair	
<p>The National SAB Managers Network Awards are now open for nominations across a number of categories. The link for nominations was included within the agenda, with a deadline of 18th October. Nominations can be made either for individuals or organisations in recognition for their work. Last year Thirteen Housing won the Innovation award for their interactive training programme, which provided a great opportunity for them to attend and receive their award. Members can nominate directly or contact the Business Unit.</p>			
Action Points		Action Owner	Deadline

1. Nominations to be submitted for the SAB Managers Network Awards	All	18/10/2024
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Agenda Item 7	Any Other Business	Presenter: All	
<p>CN advised that SBC have received notification of their CQC inspection.</p> <p>Lucy Owens (LO) introduced herself as the Chief Executive for Catalyst in Stockton and also as Board representative for the Tees Valley Infrastructure Partnership. LO advised that the Voluntary Sector are keen to support and contribute to the work of the Board. LO requested more information about the Safeguarding Champion role and how this could link with the Voluntary Sector and also with the work that is being done to encourage the private sector to give staff members volunteer time. SM will contact LO in relation to this.</p> <p>AM advised that the meeting schedule for 2025-26 was attached to the agenda for information. This includes dates for both TSAB and Sub-Group meetings. If there are any issues members are requested to contact the Business Unit. If no comments are received then meetings will be booked.</p>			
Action Points		Action Owner	Deadline
1. Contact LO in relation to the Safeguarding Champions scheme		SM	09/10/2024
2. Members to review the meeting schedule for 2025-26 and contact the Business Unit if there are any issues.		All	09/10/2024

Next Meeting Date: **Wednesday 9th October 2024**
 Time: **9.30am – 12pm**
 Venue: **Microsoft Teams**

Minutes approved by Independent Chair:



Date: 24/09/2024

Appendix 1 - Attendance Matrix								
The table below reflects named members of the TSAB, although deputies have been shaded.								
Company	14/02/2024	13/03/2024	17/04/2024	12/06/2024	11/09/2024	09/10/2024	11/12/2024	5
Catalyst Stockton / Hartlepower	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	40%
ICB	3	1	2	1	1	0	0	100%
Cleveland Fire Brigade	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	80%
Cleveland Police	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	80%
CQC Board Member (Mlbro, Redcar, Stockton) (committed to attend 2 meetings per year)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
CQC Board Member (Hartlepool)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
DWP	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	100%
Hartlepool and Stockton Safeguarding Children Partnership	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Hartlepool Borough Council	1	2	1	2	2	0	0	100%
HBC Lead Member	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	60%
Healthwatch Hartlepool	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	80%
Healthwatch South Tees	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	40%
Healthwatch Stockton	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	40%
HMP Holme House Prison	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	80%
Middlesbrough Borough Council	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	80%
MBC Lead Member	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	20%
Middlesbrough VDA / Redcar & Cleveland VDA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
National Probation Service Cleveland	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	40%
North East Ambulance Service (attend for specific agenda items only)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	80%
Public Health	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	60%
Office of Police & Crime Commissioner (committed to 2 meetings per year)	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	60%
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	100%
RCBC Lead Member	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Stockton on Tees Borough Council	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	100%
SBC Lead Member	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	100%
South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	100%
South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	20%
Teesside University	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Tees Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	80%
Thirteen Housing	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	40%
TSAB Independent Chair	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	100%
TSAB Business Unit	7	7	7	7	7	0	0	100%

SAFER STOCKTON PARTNERSHIP

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Wednesday 2 October 2024.

Present: John Wrintmore (Chair), Sharon Cooney, Libby Griffiths, Cllr Steve Nelson, Dawn Tyeman, Key Nicolson, Mandy Mackinnon, Leanne Melony-Kelly, Vanessa Housley, Mandie Rowlands, Anna Waddington, Marc Stephenson, Gary Knight, Sarah Wilson, Cllr Pauline Beall, Matt Storey, Stu Hodgson, Lucy Owens, Dan Heron, Richard Brown, Majella McCarthy .

Officers: John Devine.

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Norma Stephenson, Ann Powell, David Willingham .

SSP/2524 Evacuation Procedure

The Evacuation Procedure was noted

SSP/2624 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

SSP/2724 Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 17th July 2024 were agreed as a true record.

SSP/2824 Knife Crime Prevention

Representatives of Cleveland Police presented a report on Knife Crime Prevention to members. Officers highlighted several sections of the report to Members.

Since Sept 2023 there had been 810 crimes involving a knife or a bladed article in the Cleveland area, this amounted to a 10% decrease from the year previous. Members were also informed that more than half of all identified suspects linked to knife crime were males under the age of 24. During the same 12-month period 186 people aged 24 and under were victims of knife crime. Officers added that knife crime makes up 57% of all serious violence in Cleveland.

The report also gave a more focused look at the Stockton Borough in relation to knife crime, which showed that there had been 213 knife crime offences in the last 12 months in Stockton. This was a 23% reduction from the previous 12-month period.

Police set out their plans on how to reduce knife crime further, with early interventions schemes, One Team working collaboration initiatives and joint working with Licensing and those in the nighttime economy.

Following the report Police and other members of the partnership discussed the following:

As Stockton had seen reductions in knife crime had there been any displacement into other areas? Which Officers were happy to report was not the case.

Had any work been done to target primary school children with early prevention work? There had been work undertaken to adapt presentations for students for a younger audience, this would be linked in with partners in Children's services.

Members agreed to note the report.

SSP/2924 Deliberate Fires

Cleveland Fire Brigade Officers gave an update on Deliberate Fires and their economic impact to the partnership. An increase of 4% in the number of deliberate fires set was highlighted to members, Officers explained that in response a heightened targeting of hotspot areas had been undertaken with patrols and instigating seals community skips. The recent increase was part of a 58% increase over a five-year period, which was being investigated jointly with Police.

Offices emphasised that they are wanting to work with partners to tackle the increased activity. Members of the partnership promised to link in with the Fire Brigade following the meeting to discuss how they could work more closely going forward.

Members agreed to note the report.

SSP/3024 Post Disorder Report

Members agreed to defer this report to a following meeting due to Officers being unable to attend.

SSP/3124 Recorded Crime & Disorder Report

Officers presented the Recorded Crime and Disorder Report for July 2023 to June 2024 with Members, they noted several sections of the report for members. These were as follows:

- Public reports crime had seen a decrease of 21%
- A slight increase in the numbers of vehicle crime but work had been undertaken and a group believed to be responsible for a large part of the increase had been arrested.
- The number of drug offences had increased in the six months; Officers would continue to work with the UK Boarder Force agency as it is believed to be coming from abroad.
- A 56% decrease in the number of off-road bike reports, Officers were confident that the decrease was due to the work being carried out by Officers with cooperation with the Public.

Overall levels of crime had been reducing but the public perception of crime was higher than ever. Offices noted that it was important to push the good news stories of reductions out to the public but would not dismiss the public's perception as it was equally important.

Members agreed to note the report.

SSP/3224 Operation Harmony Update

Members were given an update on Operation Harmony which outlined that there had been a significant reduction in crime, Officers contributed this to the partnership work being done by all those involved.

The feedback from the public which shows that the perception of crime hasn't reduced with the actual level of crimes. Offices stated that more work would need to be done to reassure those members of the public, which will be an ongoing goal.

Police were trying to promote the work being done across the area and to make sure the Policing being done was more visible in an attempt to combat the communities perception.

Members of the community had made a recommendation to Police that Operation Nightfall be continued in the area. This was seen as a possible solution by members for the communities perception.

Community engagement would continue into the future with a residents meeting being planned in the week following this Safer Stockton Partnership meeting.

Members Agreed to note the report.

SSP/3324 Prevent (CT) Update

There were no further updates to bring to members attention for this item.

SSP/3424 Any Other Business

Members shared information about an update on the Bleed Cabinets which were discussed at the previous meeting.

Partners agreed to jointly petition for the Bleed Cabinets to be dealt with under the same system that the Defibrillator cabinets.

Members noted the discussion.

SSP/3524 iQuanta Report

Members were presented with a restricted report that provided an overview on crime comparisons against other similar CSPs utilising iQuanta.

This report was a restricted document due to the statistical information only made available as an intelligence tool for partnerships until released by the Home Office.

AGREED that the report be noted.

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AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

16TH JANUARY 2025

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION & INCLUSIVE GROWTH

CABINET DECISION

Regeneration & Housing - Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Nigel Cooke

Regeneration Powering Our Future

SUMMARY

This report sets out proposals to refresh the Council's Regeneration Mission, with a focus on 'Place Making' that aligns with our Stockton-on-Tees Plan priorities for:

- A great place to live, work and visit
- An inclusive economy.

The Regeneration Mission will provide a core foundation for the Council to achieve our place-based ambitions and will act as a framework for future delivery.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)/DECISION(S)

Cabinet approval of the recommendations can ensure that we are well positioned to achieve ambitions set out in the Stockton-on-Tees Plan, with a clear focus on value adding, regeneration activity that can deliver meaningful impact for people in the Borough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to agree:

- Proposals for the Regeneration Mission, set out in sections 4-7
- To receive future update reports as appropriate for major projects and programmes of work, and as part of Powering Our Future progress reporting
- That performance is reported through the Stockton-on-Tees Plan Performance Management Framework.

INTRODUCTION

1. In January 2024, Cabinet agreed a draft Mission Statement and underpinning Missions for the Powering Our Future Programme, which set out a picture of success for the future of the Council. This included a Regeneration Mission, focused on driving economic growth to improve community prosperity and wellbeing.
2. Since that time, work has taken place to refine each of the Missions, to ensure they provide a foundation to deliver ambitions and priorities set out in the Stockton-on-Tees Plan (agreed by Council in November 2024). There have also been national policy changes and developments

in major programmes of work, which are relevant to consider in relation to the Regeneration Mission.

3. It is therefore considered timely to review and re-set the Regeneration Mission, to position it with an increased focus on Place Making and achievement of Stockton-on-Tees Plan priorities. Achieving this Mission will incorporate significant, large-scale project and programme activity, which will be brought to Cabinet for decision making.

REGENERATION POWERING OUR FUTURE

It is proposed that the Regeneration Mission is agreed as below.

4. The next chapter for our Borough will build on our rich history, diverse communities and growing ambitions for the future. It will see us create a vibrant, inclusive and sustainable place for residents, visitors and businesses alike. In doing so, we will enhance and animate public spaces, build local pride and promote economic growth.
5. Stockton-on-Tees will be:
 - A place of choice for business with a growing number of employment opportunities for residents
 - Recognised for a thriving economy at the heart of Tees Valley, a place that attracts and retains skills and talent, and where everyone has the opportunity to succeed
 - A place to call home – the right homes in the right places, with thriving communities
 - A vibrant Borough, known for its cultural and creative cluster that enriches local lives, attracts outside audiences, skills and talent.
6. What this means for us
 - Placemaking regeneration will create the conditions for business growth and private sector investment across the Borough, increasing our overall economic productivity and the scale of the economy in Tees Valley
 - Placemaking regeneration will also improve and support the health and wellbeing of our residents across all stages of life
 - Our town centres will be vibrant well-designed spaces that attract local communities, visitors and business, to thrive and enjoy
 - Our vibrant culture and leisure offer, with a strong supporting food and beverage sector, will put us on the map as a destination of choice, for local communities, visitors and business
 - Our design principles will ensure community and business safety is a key priority within new and regenerated projects
 - Transport and digital infrastructure will provide the connectivity that residents and businesses need to succeed
 - A diverse housing offer across the Borough will meet the needs and aspiration of our residents, and we will be a place that people choose to live
 - Our employment and housing opportunities will ensure residents have fair access to opportunities to live and thrive in our Borough
 - Promotion of our strong Borough brand through assertive and consistent marketing will reinforce the economic vitality of Stockton-on-Tees, at the heart of the Tees Valley economy
 - Working with partners, including local Business and the Place Leadership Board, will optimise opportunities for efficient and effective partnership working
 - Urban development will be integral to this Mission, with exciting developments at the heart of Tees Valley, creating vibrant and integrated urban centres, as well as business clusters, including: a nationally significant Care and Health cluster, homes for the future, culture and leisure attractions
 - Future spatial plans will incorporate our ambitions for vibrant place making and economic growth, with residential and business communities at their heart

- Our activity will celebrate historic heritage and connections for each of our towns and ceremonial counties.

7. Success will be measured through a set of indicators that form part of performance reporting for the Stockton-on-Tees Plan. This will include an emphasis on employment, skills and population rates, business growth and diversification of housing.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

8. Successful delivery of this Mission will have a positive impact for communities across the Borough, by supporting a vibrant and inclusive economy that all of our residents can be part of.

9. It will support growth of the local economy and cement our role as the well-connected, economic heart of Tees Valley. Ensuring that all residents can benefit from secure and sustainable jobs.

10. An Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment has been completed and will inform future approaches to delivery.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

11. Support for Children in our Care and Care Leavers will be considered through individual areas of work, which will be reported on separately and Impact Assessments undertaken as required.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report. The financial implications will be assessed as part of individual project activity and implications included in future reports.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13. There are no direct legal impacts as a result of this report. Implications will be identified and legal advice sought/provided as part of individual project activity.

RISK ASSESSMENT

14. The refresh and refinement of this Regeneration Mission takes account of the latest national policy changes and a greater focus on place making to achieve the Stockton-on-Tees Plan priorities. There are risks that the incorrect priorities have been identified and investment may be mis-directed.

15. These risks have been mitigated by thorough analysis of intelligence used in setting priorities, engagement with communities and partners and the development of programmes of work that will deliver the mission.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

16. This report will impact on all Wards. Impact of specific Wards will be reported and consulted on separately, as part of delivery.

All Councillors were consulted on development of the Stockton-on-Tees Plan.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Powering Our Future – report to Cabinet January 2024
- The Stockton-on-Tees Plan
- Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment

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AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

16 JANUARY 2025

REPORT OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

KEY DECISION

Regeneration and Housing - Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Nigel Cooke

Levelling Up Fund Preston Park Museum and Grounds Enhancements

SUMMARY

This report provides an update on progress improvements to Preston Park Museum and Grounds (PPMG) funded through Levelling Up Fund grant (LUF)) and seeks a decision to address financial pressures arising from mandatory unforeseen drainage works.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)/DECISION(S)

To enable delivery of enhancements in Preston Park under the Levelling Up Fund programme as previously reported to Cabinet in March 2023

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Cabinet recognise the importance of the Aviary, Stockton & Darlington Railway heritage feature and central area to the Preston Park LUF enhancements and commit to supporting their delivery, subject to funding being identified as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan report to Cabinet in February 2025.

DETAIL

Background

1. The programme of works as reported to Cabinet in March 2023 consists of
 - a. An extension exhibition and open store space at Preston Park Museum
 - b. Improvement to the café and toilets (including demolition of current block)
 - c. enhancements to car parking
 - d. opportunities for an alternate use for the Aviary
 - e. The creation of a new feature adjacent to the main entrance to celebrate and highlight the Stockton & Darlington Railway (S&DR) heritage and the original route through the Park
2. Following the most recent report to Cabinet on this matter in March 2023, work began on the Museum extension, exhibition space and open store along with increase to parking capacity in early 2024. The scheme is progressing on site with the car park works largely complete and completion and commissioning of the main build due in Spring 2025.
3. Work is also underway on the refurbishment of the existing café building which will see new toilets and changing places facility along with the demolition of the current toilet block complete by June 2025.

4. Initial design work has been undertaken on the reuse of the Aviary, opening it up at surface level, with new planting and seating to create a new space and point of interest. Designs have been developed for the demolition (subject to planning permission) of the dilapidated 1920's South Lodge gatehouse and replace it with a feature to celebrate and highlight the route of the former Stockton & Darlington Railway (S&DR). Enhancements to the central area (adjacent to and between the café and car park) will improve accessibility and movement of vehicles and pedestrians. This work has progressed at a slower pace in cognisance of the emerging budget issues described within this report.

Drainage Issues

5. As work has progressed on the Museum extension, it became apparent that the historic drainage infrastructure which serves the current museum building and to which the new build would connect, does not meet current environmental standards and legal requirements.
6. This discovery prompted a period of assessment and exploration of mitigating actions in regard to both temporary and permanent solutions along with discussion with Northumbrian Water Limited.
7. Given the legal requirement to be fully compliant with modern environmental regulations, it quickly became apparent that in order for the facility to be operable both in its current form and following the addition of the extension and exhibition space, an attenuation tank and the addition of a significant length of new drainage as well as a new connection into the nearby network was required and this work was added to the current construction contract.
8. The cost of the temporary drainage solution (which is currently in place) as well the permanent solution described above (currently under construction) amounts to £950,000.

Scope of Works

9. The terms of the LUF funding committed the Council to the delivery of the exhibition space, café/toilets and parking, with the Aviary, S&DR feature commemoration and central area not forming part of the bid but emerging more latterly in the programme as opportunities to enhance the park and visitor experience.
10. The core LUF bid could be delivered within the project budget of £12.4m. However, despite some minor value engineering of elements within the exhibition space, the required additional drainage works have exhausted project contingency reserves and the budget reserved for the additional works to the Aviary, S&DR heritage feature and central area.
11. The budget of £12.4m is now fully committed (including fees and contingency) to the exhibition space, car park, toilets and café only, which is in line with the originally envisaged scope of works in the LUF bid.

Options

12. There are essentially two options for the PPMG programme of works.

Option 1 - Reduce the scope of project works, excluding the Aviary, a S&DR heritage feature and the central area, resulting in delivery of the exhibition space, car park, café and toilets works within existing budget;

Option 2 – Identify funding within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan to enable delivery of the full scope of the project, Aviary, a S&DR heritage feature and the central area

13. The cost of the works to the Aviary, S&DR heritage feature and central area as described at paragraph 4, as well as reinstatement of value engineered elements, is estimated at up to £950,000. These sums are estimates that will be confirmed at the point tenders are finalised, alongside provision for professional fees, contingency and provision for some value engineered items. The cost estimates are broken down below

Intervention	Cost Estimate
South Lodge demolition and S&DR Heritage Feature	320,000
Aviary	110,000
Central Area	170,000
Contingency, Fees and VE	350,000
Total	950,000

14. The sum for interventions set out above is above the current approved funding envelope and as such up to £950,000 will need to be identified to deliver these interventions. It is recommended that funding is identified as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan report to Cabinet in February 2025.
15. If Cabinet are minded to approve option 2 to ensure the delivery of Aviary, S&DR heritage feature and central area along with reinstatement of value engineered elements, the final design and tender documentation can be prepared in order to achieve an accurate figure for delivery, with agreement of final contract sums and specification delegated to Director of Regeneration and Inclusive Growth in consultation with Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing.
16. If Members are minded to approve Option 1, it should be noted that there will remain a future liability to demolish the structurally unsound South Lodge which will need to be considered in the near future.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

EPIA completed.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct Corporate Parenting implications arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

To enable the recommendations in this report, the allocation of resources is required which will be fully reflected in the Medium Term Financial Plan report which will be presented to Cabinet and Council in February 2025.

Failing to undertake works at South Lodge could have an impact on S&DR celebrations as a contribution of £200k funding for this intervention was explicitly referenced in the bid to the Arts Council

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council is contractually obliged to use the LUF Funding towards the elements approved as part of that bid and included within the funding agreement before use on any additional elements or face a risk of clawback or withdrawal of funding.

The decision to approve funding above that already approved in the budget is a non-executive decision and must be made by Council.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Delivery of interventions within this report sit within the current Capital Programme governance framework with project and programme level risks captured and reported through existing management systems. This matter is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

Ward Councillors Stefan Houghton and Jim Taylor – scheme updates undertaken in recent months and future briefings planned. No direct consultation on the matter covered in this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to Cabinet March 2023

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AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

16TH JANUARY 2025

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

KEY DECISION

Children's Services - Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Lisa Evans

Additionally Resourced Provision in Mainstream Schools – Outcome of EMS Consultation

SUMMARY

In September 2024, a report was considered by Cabinet, for information only, on the consultation relating to increasing capacity in mainstream schools within Stockton-on-Tees, by transferring current Enhanced Mainstream Schools (EMS) to Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP) and SEN Units.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)/DECISION(S)

Following consideration of the outcome of the consultation, it is now requested that Cabinet decide on the recommendations from this, including the investment of high needs funding into the programme to ensure its success.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. For Cabinet to support the recommendation to transfer Enhanced Mainstream Schools to ARP and SEN Units from September 2025.
2. For Cabinet to agree to invest up to an additional £730,000 p.a. into these provisions from the High Needs block of the Dedicated Schools Grant.
3. To agree to allocate £85,000 from the High Needs provision capital allocations for investment in the SEND Unit at Preston Primary School to increase capacity from 8 to 16 places in September 2025.

DETAIL

Background

1. The Council successfully submitted a revised Delivering Better Value (DBV) plan to DfE on 19 February 2024. This plan was formally agreed by Government and requires the Council to fully mitigate the aggregated Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit by 2027/28, because if left unmitigated the number of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) was forecast to reach 2,564 by January 2027 (2,280 at time of submission) which would result in an unmitigated aggregated deficit of £34.8m by the end of 2027/28 compared with a current (end of 2023/2024) deficit of £3.8m.
2. The plan to reduce the deficit and provide long-term stability is based on eight mitigations, the most significant of which (in terms of deficit reduction and long-term sustainability) is to increase

capacity in our local mainstream primary and secondary schools thereby reducing the need for significantly more expensive independent special school and out of area special school placements.

3. There is a need to improve outcomes for children with special educational needs across the Borough and respond to the increasing demand for specialist support at the earliest opportunity. This fits with the Council's vision of providing earlier intervention to reduce demand for expensive placements which are often out of Borough and aligns with the overarching strategy of SEND locally and the priority areas in the Delivering Better Value Action Plan.
4. The Council has a statutory duty to ensure there is sufficient and suitable educational provision to meet the need of all its children and young people. Stockton-on-Tees currently has a significant shortfall in provision relating to pupils with Special Educational Needs. There is a need for a Cabinet decision to commit funding to increase the number of placements for children with SEND in the Borough.
5. The proposal to introduce a model of Additional Resourced Provisions and SEND Units would align with the Department for Education Guidance and allow for clear registration of the provision with benefits to schools and families. It would allow parents to request these schools in line with the duties in the Children and Families Act 2014 and would give parents additional choice of school placements, as opposed to current options of mainstream or special schools.
6. As a result of the pressure on places, more children are being allocated specialist places within the private sector, including the use of independent and alternative provision to support children not able to access a local special school place. This results in lengthy journeys for vulnerable children and pressure on families, whose children are educated away from their local communities. As well as having a significant impact on children's experiences, this is a costly solution; fees charged by the private sector are significantly higher than the costs related to children attending local schools. There are also associated transport costs for children attending schools outside the area which impact on core revenue funding.
7. Local and national data demonstrate increasing demand for places for children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans is set to not only continue but expected to accelerate in line with national trends.
8. In the academic year 2023/2024, 126 children in Years 1-11 transferred from mainstream schools into special schools in and out of the Borough. In the academic year 2024/25 so far, this number is already at 65 additional children. With a lack of special school places available, there is a requirement to respond locally to this. Work is also ongoing to upskill and support all mainstream schools in the Borough, however, the impact of this will not be immediately seen.
9. In September 2024, Cabinet agreed for consultation to take place with all stakeholders to determine that the proposal meets the needs and priorities of children and families within the Borough and that school leaders agreed with and understood the proposals. The consultation also gave an opportunity for schools to express an interest in becoming an ARP / SEN Unit for the additional places required.
10. The consultation was largely positive, with over 251 responses and only 8.37% of those responses disagreeing with the proposals. Over 86% of the responses from parents and carers stated that they strongly agreed or agreed with the proposals.

Proposed interventions

11. The proposal is to realign existing EMS provision and transfer them into ARP and SEND Units, with 100 additional places in the areas of need that respond to the increase in demand. For

example, to reduce the number of places available where there is a lower demand, i.e. sensory and physical, HI/VI and increase places for children with speech and language needs or autism spectrum disorder.

12. The establishment of ARPs and SEND Units ensures that where possible more children with an EHCP can be taught alongside, and within, a mainstream school environment. This has educational benefits for those children whilst also assisting the Council to better utilise the limited funding available through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) as it allows those learners for whom the provision is appropriate to be placed in more cost-effective provision. The establishment of specialist resourced provision across the Borough further increases the range of SEND provision available to meet the needs of children, particularly those children with significant additional needs being able to access a mainstream curriculum.
13. A number of new schools have applied to be additionally resourced provisions. Some schools, who are currently EMS have asked to withdraw. This will not impact the children accessing the provision and the EMS will remain operational until all children leave.
14. ARP/SEN Unit place costs plus appropriate top-up funding will be funded from the High Needs block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). This is a ring-fenced revenue grant received on an annual basis from the DfE.
15. The Council currently spends £1.9m per annum on EMS provisions for 209 places in Stockton schools, but by transferring these into SEN Units/ARPs and creating up to 100 additional places for children across the Borough, there will be an additional ongoing financial requirement of around £730,000 per year (assuming all placements are full) from High Needs funding in addition to current spend. Without the interventions there is a risk that the 100 children who would be placed in these ARPs would be placed in a an out of area agency placement with an average cost of £60,000 per annum resulting in a total annual cost of £6m.
16. These changes in provision would therefore deliver a cost avoidance of £5.27m per annum by 2026/27 and the cumulative impact of this is £13.61m by 2027-28 and is summarised in the table below:

Financial Year	2025/26 (part yr)	2026/27 (full yr)	2027/28 (full yr)	Total
Cost of 100 places in Independent Special #	£3.5m	£6m	£6m	£15.5m
Additional cost of 100 places in SEN Units/ARPs	£430k	£730k	£730k	£1.89m
Annual saving against unmitigated forecast **	£3.07m	£5.27m	£5.27m	£13.61m

17. Some financial modelling based on the transport costs of children currently in our EMS' indicate that the creation of 100 new ARP places could add a pressure of around £225k to the Council's annual Community Transport budget. The exact cost will be determined by the placement of the ARPs and the location of the children enrolled and it is important to note that if the ARP places were not made available locally, then this cost pressure would be significantly higher as children would require transport out of area.
18. There is also an opportunity to deliver some capital works costing around £85,000 at Preston Primary School. This will ensure the creation of a SEND unit that is able to permanently accommodate 16 pupils. This will generate a cumulative saving of £1.59m by 2027-28.

19. The table below summarises the cumulative saving against the unmitigated DBV deficit position of £34.8m referenced in paragraph 1:

	By 2027/28
Savings anticipated from Capital investment	£1.59m
Savings anticipated from the EMS review above	£13.61m
Total cumulative savings expected by 2027/28.	£15.2m

Latest DfE funding announcement

20. DfE has recently announced the High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations for 2025/26. The allocation for SBC is £44.2m (£40.78m in 2024/25). This is an increase of 7.4% and an additional £2.2m on the estimated funding in the DBV plan (This was a 3% increase as suggested by DfE).

21. The proposals described above, supported with the additional HN funding should give SBC a good basis on which to develop a more fit for purpose HN system in the Borough; one that is in-line with the DBV plan and that will enable the LA to mitigate the aggregated DSG deficit by 2027/28.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

22. An Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment was completed on 2.12.24 in relation to this decision. No further or mitigating actions were required.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

23. By creating more SEND placements locally, there is a further opportunity to minimise out of area placements for children in our care, therefore ensuring stability of education with teaching staff who have a higher knowledge and skillset.

24. The ARP provisions will have appropriate governance and quality assurance to monitor quality and progress of all children.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

25. The £730,000 per annum cost of delivering the additional 100 places following the move towards the ARPs model is funded from the additional £2.2m of DSG money referenced in paragraph 20 and is built into the current DSG plan.

26. The £85,000 for the capital intervention is funded from the High Needs provision capital allocations that are reflected in the capital programme.

27. The potential pressure in respect of the Community Transport budget falls outside of the DSG and within the Council's General Fund; as such this will be considered in the MTFP Budget report to Cabinet and Council in February 2025.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

28. By ensuring that there are sufficient places to meet the needs of children in the Borough, the Council remains compliant with the legal responsibilities of The Children and Families Act 2014.
29. Legal services have been consulted on the proposals and agree with the above statement. The EPIA has been shared.

RISK ASSESSMENT

30. This is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

EMS Consultation Information Report to Cabinet - September 2024
EMS Consultation Document to Key Stakeholders - September 2024
Equality & Poverty Impact Assessment - December 2024
Report to Cabinet – School Investment Strategy - January 2025

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AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

16 JANUARY 2025

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

CABINET DECISION

Access, Communities & Community Safety- Lead Cabinet Member – Cllr Norma Stephenson

REVIEW OF THE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES FOR GAMBLING PREMISES IN STOCKTON

SUMMARY

The Authority is required, by the Gambling Act 2005, to publish a Statement of Principles (policy) that it proposes to apply when exercising its functions under the Act. This policy must be published every three years.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council's current policy came into effect on 31 January 2022 and is now due for review.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Adoption of the Gambling Statement of Principles under s349 of The Gambling Act 2005 is an executive function, it is recommended the Cabinet agree the revised policy which would then come into effect on the 31 January 2025.

DETAIL

2. Gambling is regulated in two ways, the Gambling Commission regulate the individuals who provide gambling, carrying out a fit and proper test on licensed operators. The Local Authority issue premise licences to those operators ensuring the premises where gambling is carried out meets legislation and guidance.
3. Gambling has changed in recent years, traditional methods such as betting shops are being replaced with online gambling. The Gambling Commission regulate online gambling. The number of betting shop premises have reduced by 17 over the past 9 years. The main source of statistical data on gambling is from the Gambling Commission website, further information is attached as Appendix 1.
4. As well as the Gambling Act 2005, the Gambling Commission Guidance for Local Authorities details how the local authority should exercise its functions when licensing premises for gambling. More information can be found at:
www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-to-licensing-authorities
5. There have been no legislative changes since 2022, as such there have been no material changes to the current policy. The policy has had a refresh regarding look, ease of use and updated information about the Borough, gambling participation and gambling harms, and a copy of the draft policy can be found at:
www.stockton.gov.uk/current-applications-and-consultations

6. The draft policy was published for a four-week public consultation. The consultation included stakeholders such as the Gambling Commission, trade associations, licensees, children's services, local residents groups, responsible authorities including police and public health, and all members. The consultation was also published on the Council website and a public notice was placed on the notice boards of all public libraries. No comments on the draft policy were received.
7. The Statutory Licensing Committee considered the draft policy at a hearing on 24 September 2024, no additional comments were received.
8. The Corporate Management Team also considered the draft policy at a meeting on 10 December 2024, no additional comments were received.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

9. The policy aims to uphold the licensing objectives, which support the role of the Gambling Commission and ourselves. These are:
 - preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime
 - ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
 - protecting children and other vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling
10. This report subject to an Equality & Poverty Impact Assessment which has been completed and is available online at [Assessment Details - Stockton EPIA System](#)

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

11. The licensing objectives in the Gambling Act aim to protect children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. The cost of licensing gambling premises and issuing gaming permits and lottery registrations will be met from the fees paid by applicants and licence holders. The fee structure, in terms of the application / renewal fees to be charged, is to be determined with a view to full cost recovery. The setting of fees has been delegated to officers, the current fees in this sector are set at the maximum national limit.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13. The Gambling Act 2005 requires the Licensing Authority to prepare a policy every three years. The Council's current policy has been in effect from 31 January 2022 and is now due for review. Adoption of this policy under s349 of The Gambling Act 2005 is an executive function.
14. The adoption of the policy will assist members and officers when considering applications and businesses intending to submit applications. It will give a clear outline of the Authority will consider when assessing applications. The policy can be challenged by way of judicial review.

RISK ASSESSMENT

15. This matter is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

16. Consultation on the draft policy commenced in August 2024, a public notice was placed in all public libraries and a was placed on the council website. The link to the website was emailed to stakeholders including responsible authorities, trade bodies, members and residents associations. All Members were directly consulted via email. The draft policy was also considered by the Statutory Licensing Committee on 24 September 2024 and the Corporate Management Team on 10 December 2024, no additional comments were received.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendices 1

www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-to-licensing-authorities

www.stockton.gov.uk/current-applications-and-consultations

www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/publication/statistics-on-gambling-participation-year-2-2024-wave-1-official-statistics

[Assessment Details - Stockton EPIA System](#)

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Number of Licensed Betting Premises

Policy Review Date	No. of licensed betting shops
2015	37
2018	28
2021	25
2024	20

National Gambling Survey 2024 Data (Year 2,Q2)

- Overall participation in any gambling activity (in the past 4 weeks) was 48 percent, the same proportion that was observed throughout 2023.
- Over one fifth of respondents (21 percent) only took part in lottery draws (either National Lottery or other charity lottery draws) in the past 4 weeks. If we exclude these respondents who have only taken part in lottery draws, gambling participation was 27 percent.
- Overall gambling participation is highest for males aged 45 to 54 years old. However, removing lottery draw only players, shifts the age profile downwards, resulting in males aged 35 to 44 having the highest gambling participation rates.
- The online gambling participation rate (in the past four weeks) was 38 percent. which falls to 16 percent when lottery draw only players are removed. This highlights the large proportion of online players that only gamble on lottery draws.
- The in-person gambling participation rate (in the past four weeks) was 29 percent. Excluding lottery draw only players, the participation rate was 18 percent.
- The most popular gambling activities (in the past 4 weeks) were lotteries, including National Lottery draws (32 percent) and other charity lottery draws (16 percent). Following lotteries, the next 3 most popular activities were scratchcards (14 percent), betting (9 percent) and online instant win games (8 percent). This is consistent with data seen throughout 2023.
- The most popular reasons given as to why respondents gambled was ‘for the chance to win big money’ and ‘because it’s fun’.

www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/publication/statistics-on-gambling-participation-year-2-2024-wave-1-official-statistics

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AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

16 JANUARY 2025

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

DRAFT CABINET DECISION

Cabinet Member for Health, Leisure and Culture – Cllr Nelson

2024 EVENT SUMMARY AND 2025 MEMORIAL LIGHTING CALENDAR

SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the Council's 2024 Events Programme, including commercial and community led events which have been delivered by third parties, including events on Council land. The report also provides details of the delivery of our biggest event, Stockton International Riverside Festival (SIRF) which received very positive feedback in the independent market research, with 92% rating the whole experience positively and 94% feel that SIRF is a good use of Council resources.

In addition, the report provides the suggested calendar for memorial lighting for 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To note the success of events programme during 2024/25
2. To approve the memorial lighting calendar for 2025/26

DETAIL

1. The Borough's event programme continues to be popular with visitor numbers and satisfaction levels remaining high over the past year. There has been a good mix of small, medium and large-scale events delivered across the six towns, and some new small scale town centre events included Yard Sessions, Sustainable Environment Fair and Going for Gold.
2. The Council's resources continue to be deployed across the Borough to enable local event organisers to deliver their own community focussed events which, although supported, are delivered independently of the Council. Over 25 community and local events were delivered this year, many delivered on Council land and all receiving practical support from the Council, including specialist planning and safety advice, access to relevant Council services, and financial support for safety officers, road closures, signage and programming etc. This support is essential for our communities to enable them to manage their own events and celebrations in a safe manner.
3. Part of our large-scale event programme continues to be temporarily impacted due to the ongoing major redevelopment work on Stockton's riverside and high street locations. The suspension of these events which includes Stockton's Fireworks, Super Car Saturday and Stockton's Cycling Festival has been planned and communicated to Members and our

communities.

4. The Council's Events Service is currently working with the Town Team, contributing to the design of the new riverside spaces and planning for the continued use of the existing riverside spaces, and developing a new large-scale programme of events in preparation for the opening of the site.
5. Internally, there continues to be a joined-up approach across Council teams in the delivery of our events programme and we acknowledge the effort and support provided from service teams including Enforcement, Highways, Legal, Communications, Media, CFYA and Design Services. The effectiveness of this joint working and ability to respond to unexpected challenges has been very evident this year, particularly in relation to the impact of adverse weather and changes to programme and overall delivery.

SIRF

6. SIRF is a long-standing Arts Council England (ACE) National Portfolio Organisation (NPO), funded to present high quality work and support the street arts sector.
7. SIRF 24 is in the second year of a three-year funding agreement with ACE (2023 – 2026) and our festival continues to be highlighted nationally as an exemplar of the development of sustainability in street arts and its management as an example of best practice by an NPO.
8. SIRF has a strong reputation for showcasing international programmers, new commissions and we provide one of the largest and most diverse outdoor street arts festival in the UK. Whilst our ambition is to sustain this reputation and to continue to support artistic development and new work, the wider sector is facing a lack of investment leading to a shortage of ambitious large-scale outdoor street arts shows. This is particularly true of international work, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to find new and exciting shows of the calibre associated with our festival, with current resources.
9. There continues to be financial challenges associated with both inflationary pressures for technical suppliers for SIRF and rising costs for artists due to high demand and low availability. This remains a risk area for the SIRF, and which has meant a consolidated of our festival to a 3-day delivery in 2024.
10. We will continue to apply for additional funding from ACE which is outside of our 3-year NPO investment, as well as other funding streams including those managed by TVCA, who are one of our main Cultural Partners.

SIRF 2024 – Delivery & Sector Development

11. SIRF 2024 hosted an impressive 36 companies, including 7 international groups and over 120 individual performances across the 3 days. This included 10 new commissions and 4 International premiere shows.
12. Although access to our usual Riverside event space was not possible this year, our programme remained ambitious and we delivered some exceptional moments, with a strong artistic programme and community elements.
13. The response we received from artists and audiences was fantastic and it was clear that the appetite for residents to experience high quality arts remains strong. We have estimated footfall of 50,000 visitors across the 3 days and our independent market research have captured positive perceptions and high levels of satisfaction, including.

92% of attendees rating the festival overall as **good or very good** in 2024, compared with 86% in 2023 [95% in 2022], [94% in 2019] and [90% in 2018]

94% stated that the festival is a **good use of council resources** in 2024, compared with 90% in 2023 [94% in 2022], [94% in 2019] and [89% in 2018]

91% of attendees stated that the festival is **good for promoting Stockton** as a place to live, work or visit in 2024, compared with 90% in 2023 [95% in 2022], [93% in 2019] and [92% in 2018].

96% of people stated that coming to the event has a **positive effect on their health** and wellbeing in 2024, compare with 91% in 2023, [92% in 2022].

Direct spend per head is reported as £34.16 compared to £39.27 compared in 2023 and the **total direct economic impact** is **£949,626** compared to £991,360 to in 2023.

14. We continue our partnership with XTRAX, who deliver SIRF's international showcase which supports and promotes our festival across the Sector. For 2024 we broadened the showcase offer to also work with Outdoor Arts UK (OAUk) and Without Walls to delivery 2 days of discussions, conversations and panel sessions. The showcase also provides opportunities for programmers and artists to pitch new ideas and connect and focus on a specific area of development as well as quality time to network and forge partnerships.
15. SIRF is a unique festival to platform work as it remains a 'buyers festival' this includes international programmers booking UK artists to perform in Europe as well as UK companies extending their bookings across the UK. In 2024 there was a significant increase in delegates stating they are interested in booking shows seen at SIRF to 78% in 2024 from 50% in 2023. This highlights that SIRF remains an influential and significant festival nationally and internationally.

Participation & Engagement

16. Participation and engagement work is a key theme for SIRF and there are many opportunities for residents, children and community groups to engage in high quality arts experiences.
17. This year SIRF has worked with 13 Tees Valley artists who have been integral to the planning and delivery of the main SIRF Programme and, a further 10 local artists have supported our communities, delivering an impressive 600 workshops creating costumes, music and choreography.
18. The Community Carnival remains one of our highlights of the festival and is very popular with our SIRF audience and this year was no exception with over 6,000 visitors lined along high street to watch the parade. Participants numbers increased from 764 participants in 2023 to 864 participants, with 28 groups taking part from local schools and community groups. We also supported 4 new diverse groups to our Carnival including, **Vision 25**, social care provider for young people with learning difficulties age 19 plus; **Systemic**, Sing Your Song True Equality Matters Inclusive Choir, which is led by Ellie Lowther who is a trans awareness activist; **Autism Matters** and **TS18** dance group, ran with Corner House Youth Projects for young people ages 8-18.
19. We have also supported 3 care leavers at SIRF 2024, who worked as part of our Visitor Experience Team. Their journey was true industry experience from applying for a job, being recruited, attending briefings and being paid as a valuable member of our visitor experience team. We have received positive feedback, and we expect to repeat this opportunity in 2025

"Just wanted to say a massive thank you for the opportunity for our YP at SIRF this weekend. What a fantastic experience for them and a huge learning opportunity going

forward. What a lovely team you all were!" (Helen McGrother, Progression Advisor Virtual School)

Accessible & Sustainable SIRF

20. The major events presented by Stockton Council are designed to be accessible to all our communities and as such we continue to develop 'Accessible SIRF', which is a constantly evolving elements of our programme and planning to ensure a safe and equitable space for high quality arts experiences can be accessed by all.
21. SIRF has a well-developed and robust programme for access that is now fully integrated and embedded in our delivery. This includes British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation, Touch Tours, Relaxed Performances, fully interpreted access festival guide film and Audio Description films and resources.
22. We have also made changes to site design for physical access following audience feedback which has proved positive with **95%** of audiences rating the ease of access around the site was very good, in comparison with 90% in 2023.
23. SIRF continues to be part of a national pilot for an artist designed Audio Description Tool, *The Difference Engine* and our festival is involved in the evaluation process, which we look to add to future delivery when the new technology is finalised and in place.
24. New for SIRF 2024 is the inclusion of an accessibility audit as part of our market research processes. The purpose of this audit is to establish a baseline of how we currently serve our audiences who identify themselves as living with a disability, and what adjustments can be made in terms ensuring the best experience possible. Our current SIRF audience statistics show that 14% of our audiences identify as disabled and 13% identify as neurodivergent. At the point of writing this report we are analysing findings and undertaking a focus group.
25. In terms of our sustainable festival plan, we collected 500kg of waste in our 'festival recycling' bins, which is an increase of 80kg from 2023. Whilst this is an improvement, we are looking at ways which we can more actively promote and encourage SIRF audiences to recycle more waste generated at the festival. As previously reported, we ensure that all our generators for our shows are HVO powered (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil the Renewable Diesel Alternative) and this year we tested a solar powered generator for the production compound. Our Environmental Levy for our traders continues to be effective and is something that other festivals are now adopting across the Outdoor Arts Sector as good practice.
26. We are excited to be working with 'A Greener Future' who have delivered an environmental self-assessment to help identify further areas of improvement for future delivery. We expect a full report in Spring 25.

Festival of Thrift

27. The Festival of Thrift took place for the second year in Billingham Town Centre and John Whitehead Park on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September 2024.
28. Festival of Thrift is a nationally renowned festival which encourages and celebrates sustainable living. This festival is an important part of connecting our community with the Council's ambitious Environmental Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Strategy and ahead of the planned two-day event in September, the festival team have delivered an extensive community programme of related activities across our towns.
29. Visitor numbers across the weekend are estimated at 22,000. This is a significant improvement from 2023 which were reported as 6,000, however the 2023 festival only

opened for one day due to inclement weather. Visitor satisfaction has also increased with **81%** of visitors rating their overall experience of festival as very good or good compared to **72%** in 2023.

30. The audience profile shows that most visitors reside in the UK at 91% with only 1% residing outside the UK. Half of all visitors, continue to be local people from Billingham or Stockton, with 2024 figures the same as 2023 at 48%. Visitor numbers from elsewhere in the Tees Valley is 29% which is the same as 2023 and there is a slight increase in visitors from elsewhere in the Northeast from 15% in 2023 to 17% in 2024. A small minority are then from the rest of the UK at 5%.
31. An evaluation report is expected in the new year which will include more detailed information on delivery, travel, visitor satisfaction and economic impact. Ahead of the report, early indications in relation to travel and sustainability, include:

Most visitors travelled to the festival by **car** at 63%, whilst this is an increase compared with 55% in 2023, the 2023 figures only included one-day whereas 2024 figures are for both days.

Walking continues to be popular at 36% compared to 26% in 2023, [5.5% in 2022], with a significant amount of local people walking to the festival reported as 21%.

Public transport to the festival shows 8% of visitors used **bus services** compared to 7.5% in 2023 [2.5% in 2022], followed by **park & ride** 3% and **train** 3% which is a slight drop compared to 4% in 2023. Despite encouragement via partnership with Sustrans, cycling as a mode of transport to the festival remains low (1%).

Stockton Sparkles

32. Stockton Sparkles is the remaining large-scale event in the 2024 calendar. The event runs for a period of weeks in the lead up to Christmas, and as usual commenced with a spectacular light switch-on event late November, which achieved impressive audience numbers of over 5,000.
33. Our Christmas Market remained over-subscribed for the third year, and it is positive to note that we saw an increase in new trader applications. The Christmas Market programme included 23 traders on Stockton High Street, a choir programme with 7 schools and community choirs throughout the day and, professional musicians and Street Theatre performers. In addition, the Victorian Fair and popular Lantern Parade were all scheduled for the Christmas Market weekend.
34. Unfortunately, these planned Christmas activities were cancelled on the Saturday and Sunday due to high winds/storms, with only the Friday programme being delivered. Whilst footfall was strong on the day the event opened, the loss of two days will impact trader and the Council's economic targets.
35. 'Santa on Wheels' returns for the fourth consecutive year. This event remains extremely popular with families and communities across the Borough. It is a four-day event, and the Santa Bus route includes all wards.

Other Events in 2024

36. As previously mentioned, we continue to support a large range of well-established community and local events, including Thornaby Show, Billingham Carnival and Garden Show, EID Festival, Yarm Fair, Tees Regatta, Siren's Fest and for later in the year, Christmas focus celebrations and Light Switch On's across the Borough.

37. The Council has also delivered and supported several national and memorial events, including Armed Forces Day, 6 Remembrance Sunday events across various Towns and we also celebrated the 80th Anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy, which included a series of Beacon Lighting ceremonies in Stockton, Thornaby, Billingham and Long Newton as part of the national celebrations.
38. The Council's Events Team provides technical support and advice for the numerous communities and externally led events, which includes help with production of event safety plans, risk assessments, road closures and food safety. Further training and support from local and community event deliverers will be available for the 2025 event season.
39. Moving into 2025, the Council is committed to retaining its leadership role and further developing Stockton's reputation as a creative and dynamic events Borough. We recognised that a creative arts and events programme has many benefits to both the community and economy, and can attract high levels of satisfaction, improve well-being, increase 'direct' spend in the area and generally promote the Borough as a great place for residents, businesses and visitors alike.

Memorial lighting calendar

40. The use of coloured lights in Stockton Town centre and on selected buildings and structures continues to provide the Council with an opportunity to acknowledge and support a range of good causes and important anniversaries. This memorial lighting programme is very popular and generates significant social media activity. The 2024 memorial lighting calendar has been delivered.
41. This report invites Cabinet to agree the programme for 2025, as listed in **Appendix A**. The list incorporates campaigns that might encompass a range of individually narrow issues/interests. The dates nominated in each case are those which are believed to be the subject of a meaningful campaign by others, such that when the lights are switched on the public may have some understanding of the significance of the event/colour.
42. Where a campaign lasts for a period of days or weeks, the normal procedure will be to mark the start of that campaign by turning our lights on for the first day/night. However, where a campaign promoter wishes to use an alternative day within the period to align with specific activity designed to raise the profile of the campaign, we may change the date on which we turn our lights on to fit with the organisers' promotions. The calendar listed at Appendix A therefore includes suggested dates for each event and may be subject to minor changes.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

43. The events programme is diverse and designed to reflect the interests of different communities. Every effort is made to make our events physically and financially accessible, they are presented in public spaces and are almost always free to watch or participate in.
44. Many of our events are specifically designed, in whole or in part, to raise awareness of the needs or characteristics of specific groups, including those with protected characteristics.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

45. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

46. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

47. All events presented by the Council or approved for Council land are subject to a full risk assessment and proportionate safety plans and, where appropriate are reviewed by Stockton's Independent Safety Advisory Group.

COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

48. The events programme and memorial lighting contributes to several Council Plan priorities, including a great place to live, work and visit, healthy and resilient communities and an inclusive economy. Our events support the Council's ambition in creating a Frairer Stockton on Tees and reducing Equality and, Improving Population Health Outcomes.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

49. Many opportunities to participate in or enjoy our events are targeted at our looked after children. There were no ticketed events in 2024.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

50. There is frequent consultation with Councillors over events before, during and after the events are staged. There has been no consultation with Councillors in relation to this report as its primary function is to report on the outcome of events already staged.

51. There has been consultation with the Cabinet portfolio holder for Health, Culture & Leisure in the development of the draft memorial lighting calendar.

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Education related? No

Background Papers

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Property

APPENDIX A

MEMORIAL LIGHTING SCHEME 2025/26

DATE	EVENT	LIGHTING COLOUR	CAMPAIGNS
Monday 27 January	Holocaust Memorial Day	Purple	National
Saturday 1 February	LGBT+ History Month	Multi	Catch All
Tuesday 4 February	World Cancer Day	Orange	Catch All
Sunday 9 March	National Day of Reflection	Yellow	National
Saturday 8 March	International Women's Day	White/Purple/Green	National
Saturday 22 March	Earth Hour (8.30pm-9.30pm)	Switched off	National
Wednesday 2 April	Autism Acceptance Day	Gold	Autism Friendly Town Centre
Friday 11 April	World Parkinsons Day 2025	Blue	Open Request
Wednesday 23 April	St George's Day	Red/White	Saint Day
Thursday 8 May	VE Day 80 th Anniversary	Red/White/Blue	Open Request
Monday 19 May	National Dementia Action Week	Purple	National & SBC Campaign
Monday 2 June	National Volunteering Week	Red/Purple	National
Monday 9 June	National Carers Week	Blue	National
Saturday 28 June	Armed Forces Day	Red/White/Blue	National
Friday 15 August	VJ Day 80 th Anniversary	Red/White/Blue	Open Request
Thursday 4 September	World Sexual Health Awareness Day	Orange/Blue	Catch All
Monday 15 September	Battle of Britain Day 85 th Anniversary	Red/White/Blue	Open Request
Monday 22 September	Fairtrade Fortnight	Blue Green	National
Wednesday 1 October	Stoptober (Stop Smoking Campaign)	Red	National
Thursday 9 October	Baby Loss Awareness Week	Pink/Blue	Catch All
Friday 10 October	World Mental Health Day	Purple	Catch All
Friday 17 October	Show Racism the Red Card	Red	National & SBC Campaign
TBC	National Care Leavers Week	Blue	National & SBC Campaign
Tuesday 11 November	Remembrance Day	Red	National
Friday 14 November	World Diabetes Day	Blue	National
Tuesday 25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	Orange	Catch All

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